

State Representative

Don Hineman

Don's Legislative Update

January 24, 2014

Kansas Legislature, Week Two

This week of the legislative session was scheduled to be a short week because of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The schedule was further adjusted because of the untimely passing of Rep. Marvin Kleeb's wife Nancy. Not only is Marvin a colleague, he was a member of the freshman class of 2009 with me. Many legislative committees postponed their agendas until next week in order to allow for members to attend the service. Little work was scheduled for Friday because the GOP annual convention is convening in Wichita. Although it was a short week, it was filled with several events including Chief Justice Lawton Nuss' State of the Judiciary Address and the annual Kansans for life rally at the statehouse on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. And of course anticipation continues to build as everyone awaits a ruling in the school finance lawsuit.

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Kansas Judicial System

On Wednesday Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss gave the [State of the Judiciary Address](#). For the first time in history, the address was given in the Supreme Court Chamber and was also streamed live online for Kansans to watch. Highlights from the speech include:

- Nuss read a passage from a book that dealt with a judge taking a bribe. A lawyer in the book indicated the judge was honorable because he didn't take bribes from both sides in the case. Nuss went on to say "We laugh because that is certainly not the way that judges decide cases in Kansas. We do not take money from either side. Nor do we decide cases based on money's distant cousins, threats and other pressures."
- Nuss applauded the legislature for approving [HB 2303](#)... it's first action of the 2014 Legislative Session. The Conference Report was approved by the Senate last spring, but the House ran out of time to consider the measure. The House took up the report Wednesday and approved the measure 109-11. The bill increased fees for driving under the influence. The bill also changes the formula for how the money generated by the fees is distributed. Thirty-three percent of the total amount will go to the Judicial Branch's Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund. This will provide a badly needed 2% raise for nonjudicial employees of the judicial branch... the clerks and



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Useful Phone Numbers

Department On Aging
800-432-3535

Child/Adult Abuse Hotline
800-922-5330

Child & Family Services
888-369-4777

Consumer Protection
800-423-2310

Crime Tip Hotline
800-252-8477

Crime Victim Assistance
800-828-9745

administrative staff who have gone without any raise in pay for at least four years.

- Finally, Nuss indicated the judicial branch is facing a \$8.25 million shortfall in its FY 2015 budget. Nuss said that if additional funds are not provided that the courts would have no choice but to close, leaving Kansans without access to a judicial system.

Nuss' message regarding furloughs follows the recommendations of the Court Budget Advisory Panel, which was commissioned last fall. The panel [concluded](#) that if the budget is not increased, then additional court furloughs will be necessary beginning July 1. Jim Minnix, county commissioner in Scott County served as a member of that panel.

Yesterday Senator Jeff King, who serves as Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman, [sent a letter](#) to Chief Justice Nuss, asking him to embrace five efficiency measures which had been recommended in 2011 by a commission appointed to study the judicial system. I am intrigued by this suggestion and hope it will lead to at least a partial resolution to the funding shortfall.

Finally, Chief Justice Nuss reminded us of the closing words of the Pledge of Allegiance... "and justice for all". That promise of justice is one of the cornerstones of our system of government. I believe that as legislators it is our duty to see that that concept is respected and upheld. Kansas citizens and the businesses of our state expect and depend on a court system that delivers justice in a timely manner.

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News links

Kansas Chief Justice Nuss [lauds](#) passage of pay bill.

Nuss: Courts will [shut down](#) without more funding.

Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nuss says without [additional funding](#) courts would face closures

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Gov- Brownback
800-748-4408

Highway Road Conditions
511 (in Kansas)

Housing Hotline
800-752-4422

KanCare Assistance
866-305-5147

Kansas Lottery
800-544-9467

Legislative Hotline
800-432-3924

Mental Health Services
888-582-3759

School Safety Hotline
877-626-8203

Social Security
800-772-1213

Taxpayer Assistance
785-368-8222

Tax Refund Status
800-894-0318

Unclaimed Property
800-432-0386

Unemployment Insurance
800-292-6333

Vital Statistics
785-296-1400

Voter Registration
800-262-8683

Welfare Fraud Hotline
800-432-3913

Worker's Comp
800-332-0353

Rob Jones Rides Across America



Double-Amputee Veteran Rob Jones Rides Across America to Raise Awareness and Donations for Other Wounded Veterans

Rob Jones is a decorated Marine who lost both of his legs above the knee in Afghanistan in 2010 to an explosive while defending our freedom. After his honorable discharge in 2011 and much rehabilitation, he decided that he wanted to live his life. He learned to row, and competed for a slot in the 2012 Paralympics in London last summer. He brought home a Bronze Medal for the U.S. to add to his Purple Heart.

Now, he is bicycling across the United States, over 5400 miles, to raise money for Veteran's charities that helped him, such as The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Semper Fi, and Ride2Recovery, and raise awareness. "It's simple really" he said "I am committed to giving back to the organizations that were there for me in my darkest hours." He has already biked over 2,200 miles.

Rob hopes to raise a \$1,000,000 for Veteran's Charities. Using his prosthetic legs, he pedals on average 35 miles a day and he is self-funding his journey. Come out and meet Rob when he rides through your community. He is currently scheduled to be in Dighton on January 27, Scott City on January 28, and Leoti on January 29. Most days he rides alone, followed by his 18-year-old brother in a support truck, but he appreciates other riders joining him or people coming out to meet him and loves seeing kids along his route.

Let's honor Rob as he continues to inspire and help others. Donations through his website, are linked directly to the charities. Visit <http://www.robjonesjourney.com> to donate directly to his charities and learn more, like and follow him on Facebook, Rob Jones Journey, or track his route in real time by clicking on his daily Facebook link. You can also buy a Team Rob T-shirt and read more about Rob's back story on his booster page: <https://www.booster.com/teamrob>.

Contact Tina Felix at stamatinafelix@gmail.com (201-921-1078) to find out where you can meet Rob, or if you have any questions.

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Cowboy Logic

“When I hear somebody talk about a horse or cow being stupid, I figure it's a sure sign that the animal has somehow outfoxed them.” - **Tom Dorrance**

Quote of the week

“You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you.” - **Walt Disney**

Sermon in a sentence

“It takes less effort to be happy than to appear so.”

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Representative Don Hineman

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